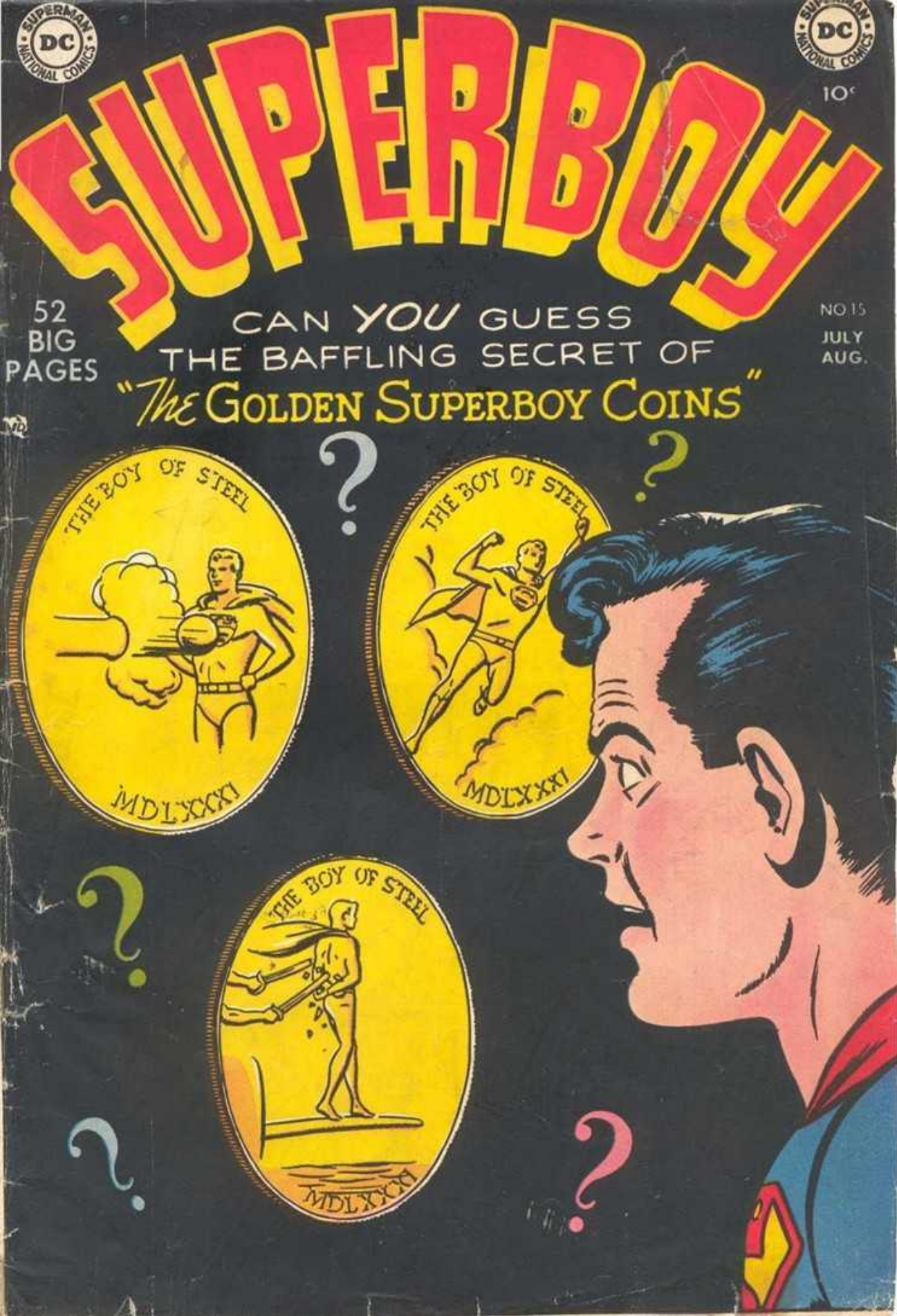
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
SUPERBOY
10¢
52 BIG PAGES
CAN YOU GUESS THE BAFFLING SECRET OF "THE GOLDEN SUPERBOY COINS"
NO. 15
JULY AUG.
THE BOY OF STEEL
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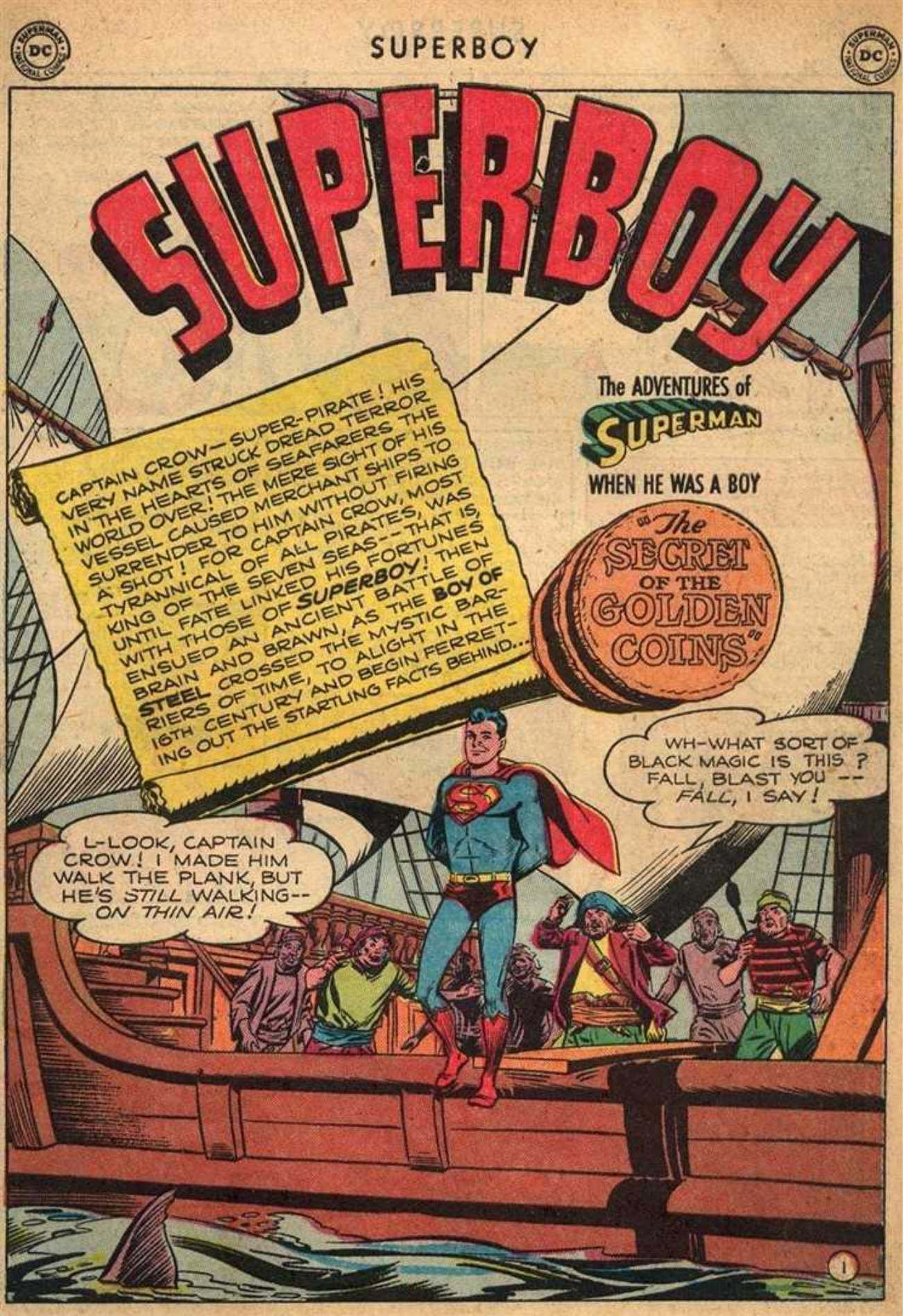

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
"The SECRET OF THE GOLDEN COINS"
CAPTAIN CROW—SUPER-PIRATE! HIS VERY NAME STRUCK DREAD TERROR IN THE HEARTS OF SEAFARERS THE WORLD OVER! THE MERE SIGHT OF HIS VESSEL CAUSED MERCHANT SHIPS TO SURRENDER TO HIM WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT! FOR CAPTAIN CROW, MOST TYRANNICAL OF ALL PIRATES, WAS KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS--THAT IS, UNTIL FATE LINKED HIS FORTUNES WITH THOSE OF SUPERBOY! THEN ENSUED AN ANCIENT BATTLE OF BRAIN AND BRAWN, AS THE BOY OF STEEL CROSSED THE MYSTIC BARRIERS OF TIME, TO ALIGHT IN THE 16TH CENTURY AND BEGIN FERRETING OUT THE STARTLING FACTS BEHIND...
L-LOOK, CAPTAIN CROW! I MADE HIM WALK THE PLANK, BUT HE'S STILL WALKING-- ON THIN AIR!
WH-WHAT SORT OF BLACK MAGIC IS THIS? FALL, BLAST YOU -- FALL, I SAY!
1

ONE AFTERNOON, AS CLARK KENT, WHO IS REALLY SUPERBOY, WALKS WITH HIS FRIENDS ALONG THE BEACH...
HEY, FELLOWS--SOME MEN JUST FOUND A PIRATE'S TREASURE CHEST WASHED ASHORE... ONLY THEY CAN'T GET IT OPEN!
HMM...AND MY X-RAY VISION TELLS ME THEY WON'T! THE COVER AND FRAME ARE FUSED INTO A SOLID MASS OF RUST!
GOSH...I'M LEAVING! I READ SOMEWHERE THAT THERE'S A CURSE ON PIRATE'S TREASURE!
AWWWW...YOU'RE ALWAYS AFRAID OF SOMETHING, CLARK! I WOULDN'T LEAVE FOR $100...NOT TILL I SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!
MOMENTS LATER, HIDDEN BY THE WALLS OF A DESERTED BEACH SHACK...
I'M AS CURIOUS AS ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THAT TREASURE CHEST...BUT IF CLARK KENT WANTS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S IN IT, SUPERBOY WILL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE! OTHERWISE, IT'LL TAKE HOURS TO OPEN IT!
RETURNING TO THE GROUP, THE BOY OF STEEL EASILY SNAPS OPEN THE AGE-OLD METALLIC GRIP, AND...
IT IS PIRATE TREASURE...THOUSANDS OF GOLD PIECES!
PIECES OF EIGHT...LOUIS D'OR...GOLDEN DRAGOONS AND...AND THESE THREE COINS...IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! LOOK, SUPERBOY!
SEE? YOUR FACE, EXACT IN EVERY DETAIL, ON THESE THREE COINS--STAMPED FEBRUARY, 1581! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?
I...I DON'T KNOW!
IT SAYS HERE "CAPTAIN CROW, TOWN OF BRENT!" GOSH, WHAT AN IDEA THIS GIVES ME!
I'M FROM THE DAILY GLOBE, SUPERBOY...MY EDITOR WOULD PAY $10,000 FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE STORY BEHIND THIS MYSTERY! YOU COULD GIVE THE MONEY TO YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY!
HMMM...I'M MYSTIFIED ABOUT THOSE COINS MYSELF! OKAY--IT'S A DEAL!
2
MOMENTS LATER...
BY MOVING AT A SPEED MANY TIMES FASTER THAN LIGHT, I'LL BE ABLE TO CRASH THE BARRIERS OF TIME AND SPACE--AND RETURN TO THE PAST!

SOON...
AH... THE TOWN OF BRENT... TIME, FEBRUARY 1581! NOW TO FIND CAPTAIN CROW AND SEE IF HE CAN HELP ME UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THOSE GOLDEN COINS CONTAINING MY IMAGE!

AND SUPERBOY DOESN'T HAVE FAR TO LOOK--FOR AT THAT MOMENT...
PLEASE, CAPTAIN CROW... DON'T TAKE MY SON!
STOP YOUR SNIVELING, WOMAN! I NEED A CABIN BOY, AND THERE'S NO OTHER ABOUT!
LOOKS AS IF THIS CAPTAIN CROW, IS A REAL PIRATICAL BIRD OF PREY...

...AND SINCE FATE SEEMS TO BE INTERVENING IN MY BEHALF, I'D BETTER GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY!
WAIT, CAPTAIN CROW! WHY NOT TAKE ONE WHO IS EAGER TO SERVE AND LEARN THE TRADE OF PIRACY FROM SUCH A MASTER AS YOU?

WELL SPOKEN, MY LAD! TELL ME, THOUGH... HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR YOUR STRANGE GARB?
WHY... I... ER... I'VE BEEN TRAVELING AS... ER... A MAGICIAN'S APPRENTICE!

IN FACT, I CAN DEMONSTRATE MY MAGIC ART, IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A GOLDEN COIN ABOUT YOU!
A COIN? HA, HA... THE TREASURES OF CAPTAIN CROW WOULD FILL TO OVERFLOWING THE COFFERS OF THE KING HIMSELF! RANDOLPH... JOHN... OPEN THAT TREASURE CHEST!

HMM... QUITE IMPRESSIVE... AND YET, DISAPPOINTING! I'D HOPED TO SEE THE COINS I'M SEEKING WITH MY X-RAY VISION!
WHAT IMAGE IS ON THIS COIN CAPTAIN?
BY MY BEARD, 'TIS THE LAUGHING FACE OF LOUIS OF FRANCE!
3

BE CAREFUL, SIR... IF YOU SWEAR FALSELY BY YOUR BEARD, YOU'LL HAVE TO SHAVE IT OFF!
MELTING THAT IMAGE WITH THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION SHOULD CONVINCE HIM OF MY "MAGICAL POWERS"!
WHA...? THE IMAGE...IT--IT'S GONE! INDEED, I'LL FIND YOU USEFUL, LAD! FOLLOW ME... BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND--OR I'LL PUT YOU TO DEATH!
I PROMISE, CAPTAIN!

AWHILE LATER...
LAST VOYAGE, I LOST SOME OF MY BEST MEN...BUT IT SHOULD NOT PROVE DIFFICULT TO ROUND UP NEW ONES! GREED FOR GOLD IS COMMON ENOUGH, AND EVERYONE KNOWS CAPTAIN CROW'S SWORD AND CANNON CAN SATISFY THE HUNGRIEST APPETITES!

GOOD DAY, MY HEARTIES! IS THERE AMONG YOU ANY WHO WOULD LINE HIS PURSE WITH THE RICHEST WEALTH OF SEVEN SEAS? ALL YOU NEED IS A STRONG HEART AND A STRONG ARM!
CAPTAIN CROW! WE WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SAIL WITH YOU!

THEN FOLLOW ME...I WILL SHOW YOU SOMETHING TO WHET YOUR APPETITES! WE SAIL TONIGHT... BUT BEFORE THAT, I MAKE A PLEDGE TO YOU!
GOSH, THESE ARE JUST A BUNCH OF YOUNG KIDS, DAZZLED BY THE GLAMOUR OF PIRACY--AND CROW'S REPUTATION!
SEE THAT TREASURE? WE WILL BURY IT NOW... BUT WHEN WE RETURN, I WILL SHARE IT AMONGST YOU, IF YOU FIGHT LIKE MEN!
LOOKS AS IF I HAVE ANOTHER TASK... PERSUADING THESE YOUTHS THAT A LIFE OF CRIME ON THE HIGH SEAS ISN'T WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

HERE, CABIN BOY... TAKE THIS SHOVEL AND DIG A DEEP PIT FOR THE CHEST!
YES SIR!
MAYBE I CAN TAKE SOME OF THE EDGE OFF THEIR EAGERNESS RIGHT NOW!
AND WITHIN SECONDS...
HA---LOOK AT THE EARTH FLY! THAT LAD WORKS WITH A HEART!
IS IT DEEP ENOUGH?
AYE, CAPTAIN... TELL YOUR MEN TO DROP THE CHEST NOW!
WE'LL WAIT TILL WE HEAR IT HIT BOTTOM, THEN COVER HER UP! HMM... IT'S A LONG TIME REACHING THERE!
THUNDERATION! THAT PIT YOU DUG... IS IT BOTTOMLESS? WHAT KIND OF MAGIC IS THIS?
SORRY, SIR. I...I GUESS THERE WAS AN UNDERGROUND CREVICE, CAUSED BY AN ANCIENT EARTHQUAKE. IT...ER... DOES SEEM BOTTOMLESS, DOESN'T IT?
A HOLE WITHOUT A BOTTOM? IMPOSSIBLE? NO, NOT FOR SUPERBOY -- FOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...
WELL, NEVER MIND, MY HEARTIES! WE'LL COME HOME WITH ENOUGH GOLD TO FILL THAT PIT! BOARD SHIP AT ONCE!
I'LL KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THAT CABIN BOY AFTER THIS!

LATER, IN THE HOLD OF CAPTAIN CROW'S VESSEL...
NOW TO GO OVER EVERY INCH OF SPACE AND SEE IF THOSE COINS AREN'T SOMEWHERE ABOARD THIS SHIP!

BUT AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH...
GOSH, NOT A SIGN OF THEM! THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING... SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN ON *THIS VERY VOYAGE* THAT WILL BRING THEM INTO EXISTENCE!
OH, HO! SO THERE YOU ARE!

DON'T BE AFEARED, BOY...I HAVE WORK FOR YOU! REMEMBER THAT TRICK YOU PERFORMED WITH THE COIN BEARING THE IMAGE OF LOUIS? DO THE SAME WITH THESE THREE... RIGHT NOW!
CERTAINLY, SIR.

THEN, IN THE SHIP'S FORGE...
NOW, FEATHERSTONE, TAKE THESE BLANK COINS AND PUT ON THEM THE IMAGE OF THE MAN MOST DREADED ON ALL THE SEVEN SEAS! I WILL USE THEM AS LUCKY CHARMS!
AYE, CAPTAIN, I'LL DO THAT.

SO THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! AT THE END OF THIS TRIP, *I'LL* BE THE MOST DREADED, AND HE'LL ENGRAVE *MY* IMAGE ON THOSE BLANKS! NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE THOSE NEW RECRUITS LOSE THEIR RESPECT FOR THE BLOOD-THIRSTY CAPTAIN!
6

DON'T BE TOO SURE, ***SUPER-BOY!*** THE MYSTERY MAY BE DEEPER THAN YOU SUSPECT! A LITTLE LATER, ON DECK...

LOOK HERE, YOU LAZY PUP! THESE DECKS CAN'T BE CLEANED BY MAGIC! SWAB THEM SMOOTH AND SLICK, SO I CAN SEE YOUR UGLY FACE REFLECTED IN THEM WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED!
YES SIR... SMOOTH AND SLICK!

SO BEGINS A SUPER-SWABBING OF THE DECK...
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD JOB TO KEEP YOUR BOSS'S RESPECT... BUT I'M AFRAID THE GOOD CAPTAIN WILL GET MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR THIS TIME!

SOON...
YOU THERE-- THE NEW MEN!... THAT'S NO WAY TO WALK A SHIP'S DECK! YOU'LL BE SEASICK IN NO TIME!
YOU MEAN THERE'S A SPECIAL WAY OF WALKING ABOARD SHIP, SIR?

AYE, YOU LILY-LIVERED LAND-LUBBERS! WATCH ME-- I'LL TEACH YOU TO WALK SO THAT THE PITCH AND ROLL OF THE WAVES SEEM AS NATURAL AS SOLID EARTH! FIRST, SPREAD YOUR LEGS A BIT, AND THEN...

OOOPS!
LOOK-- HE SLIPPED!
HA, HA, HA!

SILENCE! I'LL PLUCK THE GIZZARD OF ANY MAN WHO LAUGHS AGAIN! YOU THERE... DID YOU POLISH THESE DECKS WITH SEALING WAX? SPREAD SOME SAND ABOUT, SO A DECENT MAN CAN WALK UPRIGHT!

THAT NIGHT...
THAT LAD IS MAKING A LAUGHING STOCK OF ME... WHETHER ON PURPOSE OR BY ACCIDENT, I CARE NOT! I'LL PUT AN END TO HIM SOON ENOUGH...
CABIN BOY!--STAND OUT IN THE MOONLIGHT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU!
AYE, AYE SIR!

THERE! THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
RAK!
ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT ME TO DO, SIR?
WHAT? HE..HE'S UNHARMED! THE LAD IS A SORCERER...HIS LIFE IS PROTECTED BY A POTENT CHARM! I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HIS KIND!
NO..THAT'S.. ER... ALL NOW.
LATER...
YES, IT WILL TAKE TIME... BUT THIS WILL DESTROY HIM... A BULLET ENGRAVED WITH HIS IMAGE! IT WILL BE FATAL!
MAGIC SPELLS TO DESTROY THEM
MEANWHILE...
I SAY, CABIN BOY... I'VE BEEN ENGRAVING THE CAPTAIN'S IMAGE ON THESE COINS, BUT I'M NOT QUITE...ER...SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT! WOULD YOU MIND THAT... ER...MAGIC MELTING TRICK AGAIN?
NOT AT ALL, FEATHER-STONE!
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, HE PROBABLY WANTS TO ENGRAVE IT WITH MY IMAGE--AS THE MOST DREADED MAN ON THE SEVEN SEAS! NOW THAT THE MYSTERY OF THE GOLDEN COINS IS SOLVED, I CAN CONCENTRATE ON SAVING THOSE YOUTHS FROM A LIFE OF PIRACY!
NEXT MORNING...
SAIL HO, CAPTAIN! A FAT MERCHANT SHIP OFF THE STARBOARD! SHE'LL CROSS OUR BOW IN AN HOUR!
GOOD! ROUSE THE MEN ON DECK!
OH, OH... IF I'M TO AVOID BLOOD-SHED, I'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING QUICKLY!

ER...CAPTAIN, SOME OF THE NEW MEN SEEM UNEASY...IT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR THEIR NERVES IF I DIVERTED THEM WITH A GAME OF NINE PINS BEFORE WE ATTACK!
HMM...A FINE IDEA... BUT MIND YOU, NO TRICKS!
PRESENTLY...
I'VE SET THESE BELAYING PINS UP... BUT WHAT ABOUT A BOWL?
THESE CANNON BALLS WILL DO! OF COURSE, WE NEED TWO OPENINGS FOR THE FINGERS TO GRASP...
...BUT THAT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH!
=GULP=
SPRRRIT
BLAM!
AAAAH... A STRIKE!
SEE? NOTHING TO IT! ANYONE ELSE CARE TO TRY?
IDIOT! DOLT! THAT'S OUR LAST CANNON BALL! HOW CAN WE ATTACK NOW?
IF YOU DON'T GET THOSE CANNON BALLS BACK BEFORE WE PASS THAT MERCHANT SHIP, I'LL SLIT THE THROAT OF EVERY CREW MEMBER ABOARD SHIP!
I COULD PREVENT THAT EASILY ENOUGH, BUT I PROMISED TO OBEY HIM! AND WHEREVER THEY LEAD ME, I MUST KEEP MY PROMISES!
AYE, AYE SIR!

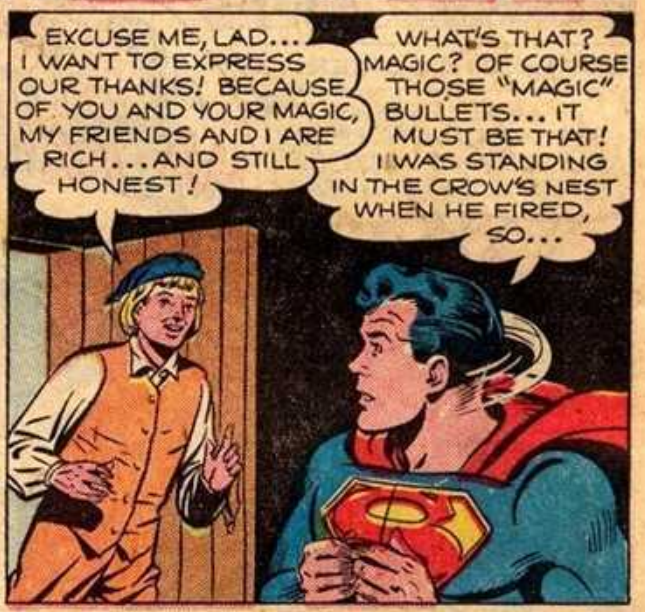
MINUTES LATER, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA...
THOSE SPONGES...WHAT AN IDEA! WITH SUPER-PRESSURE, I CAN CRUSH THEIR FIBRES INTO THE CANNON BALLS! CAPTAIN CROW WON'T LIKE THE RESULTS...BUT THEY SHOULD BE INTERESTING!
AND BACK ON DECK...
SET THEM DOWN NEAR THE CANNON...AND THEN STAY IN THE CROW'S NEST, OUT OF HARM'S WAY! I'LL SHOW THESE MEN HOW TO SCUTTLE A BARK WITH A FEW WELL-AIMED SHOTS!
BUT AS THE CAPTAIN STARTS FIRING THE "DEADLY" MISSILES...
HA, HA! THAT CAPTAIN CROW...RUBBER CANNON BALLS...HA, HA, HA! HOW DID HE EVER GET A REPUTATION AS A DREADED PIRATE?
BLUE THUNDER! IT..IT'S MORE OF HIS SORCERY!
BLOINK!
DELIGHTFUL GAME, OLD CHAP! YOU'RE PROBABLY A BIT BALMY, BUT IF YOU WANT TO PLAY PIRATE, WE'LL JOIN IN THE FUN, TOO.
IT'S TIME I PUT AN END TO YOU...AND NOW I CAN!
THESE MAGIC BULLETS WILL PUT AN END TO YOUR MAGIC!
SPAT!
SPAT! SPAT!
HO-HUM... MORE BOUNCING BULLETS, EH? YOU'LL NEVER BE A FIRST-RATE PIRATE WITH RUBBER AMMUNITION, CAPTAIN!
10

MAKE A LAUGHING STOCK OF ME, WILL YOU? GET INTO THAT CANNON...NOW!
CERTAINLY, CAPTAIN...I'M SURE YOU KNOW BEST!
AND WHEN THE BOY OF STEEL SLIDES INTO THE BARREL...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM WHO TRIFLE WITH CAPTAIN CROW! THERE'S A LESSON FOR ALL OF YOU
BOOOOM!
BUT SECONDS LATER...
ANY MORE ORDERS, SIR? I'M ALWAYS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO CARRY THEM OUT!
HUH? NO...NO--IT CAN'T BE!
HO-HO!
HA-HA!
SOME PIRATE HE TURNED OUT TO BE!
STOP IT! ALL OF YOU! I'LL FEED YOU TO THE SHARKS, MISERABLE CARRION!
PUT THEM ALL IN SMALL BOATS AND MAROON THEM, HIGGINS! AND YOU...GET UP ON THAT PLANK! I'LL FEED YOU TO THE SHARKS!
THEN, AFTER THE MEN HAVE BEEN SET ADRIFT...
NOW.. GET... WHA...?
HA, HA...BE CAREFUL OF MY TICKLISH SPOT! I DON'T FEEL LIKE WALKING, BUT IF YOU INSIST...
NOW TO HIT THE WATER WITH A SUPER-SPLASH, AND LEAVE THE REST TO THE LAW OF GRAVITY!
SNAP!
WITH A MIGHTY LEAP, SUPERBOY HITS THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, AND...
SPLASHHH!

COME BACK, MEN... THAT FALL KNOCKED OUT EVERYONE ABOARD SHIP! YOU CAN TURN THEM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES, AND COLLECT A REWARD... YOU'LL MAKE YOUR FORTUNES WITH THE LAW INSTEAD OF AGAINST IT!

AND BACK IN THE SHIP'S FORGE...
NOW TO PICK UP THOSE COINS... I'M SURE FEATHERSTONE HAD TIME TO ENGRAVE MY IMAGE ON THEM!

WHAT? CROW'S PICTURE! I..I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. THIS IS THE END OF THE TRIP, AND I STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE COINS CONTAINING MY IMAGE! CROW'S CAREER'S OVER... THE TRIP'S OVER...I...I DON'T GET IT!


EXCUSE ME, LAD... I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS! BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR MAGIC, MY FRIENDS AND I ARE RICH... AND STILL HONEST!
WHAT'S THAT? MAGIC? OF COURSE THOSE "MAGIC" BULLETS... IT MUST BE THAT! I WAS STANDING IN THE CROW'S NEST WHEN HE FIRED, SO...

MOMENTS LATER...
THAT WAS HIS MAGIC SPELL... GOLDEN BULLETS, WITH MY IMAGE ON THEM... THE AGE-OLD WAY OF KILLING ONE PROTECTED BY A CHARM! THEY FLATTENED WHEN THEY HIT ME, AND BOUNCED OFF!
12

AND SO, BACK IN THE 20TH CENTURY...
... THEN, AFTER I PUT THE COINS INTO CAPTAIN CROW'S CHEST, HE KICKED IT OVERBOARD, SAYING THAT NOONE COULD HAVE HIS TREASURE IF HE DIDN'T!
HA, HA... I BET THE OLD BUZZARD WOULD TURN IN HIS GRAVE, IF HE KNEW HIS EVIL SCHEME BROUGHT THIS $10,000 TO NEEDY KIDS!
THE END

MAKE HER WALK THE PLANK!
WE CAN'T KEEP PRIS'NERS ABOARD THIS SHIP!
GIRLS CAN'T BE PIRATES ANYWAY!
SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANYONE TO RANSOM HER!
WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR- LET'S GO!
OVERBOARD WITH HER!
TURN THAT GAL LOOSE!
NOT WITHOUT RANSOM!
PUH-LEASE SAVE ME!
U.S. MARINES
MY HERO!
THIS DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM SHOULD SAVE HER!
WOW! FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE! SHE GOES FREE!
FACTS, FORTUNES AND FUNNIES IN EVERY PIECE!
FLEERS DUBBLE BUBBLE HAS THAT SWEET LONG-LASTING FLAVOR!
FUN TO CHEW! BLOWS BIGGER BUBBLES, TOO!
FLEERS DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM
1¢
FRANK H. FLEER CORP, PHILADELPHIA 41, PA.

VARSITY VIC
GOOD EVENING, IS CAROL IN?
COME RIGHT IN, MY BOY, SHE'S EXPECTING YOU!
YOU LOOK LIKE A NICE BRIGHT YOUNG MAN. SIT OVER HERE, IN MY FAVORITE CHAIR!
HOW ABOUT A PIECE OF CANDY? SOME SODA?
ER, NO THANKS!
DADDY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NICE TO HIM!
IT'S TOMORROW NIGHT THAT I HAVE THE DATE WITH TOM PERRY, WHOSE FATHER IS SO RICH!
THE END

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN
WHEN HE WAS A BOY
WHY STUDENTS FAIL
EVERY ONE OF THEM HAD FAILING MARKS, YET THE MEMBERS OF THE PROBLEM CLASS IN SMALLVILLE HIGH INCLUDED THE BRIGHTEST BOY IN SCHOOL, THE BEST STUDENT, THE CLEAREST THINKER, AND EVEN A GANGSTER! BUT WHEN A FAILING MARK ADDS CLARK KENT TO THE ROLLS OF THIS UNUSUAL CLASS, THEN THERE'S REALLY SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON. FOLLOW SUPERBOY AS HE USES ALL OF HIS AMAZING POWERS ON ONE STUDENT AFTER ANOTHER -- AND YOU, TOO, CAN LEARN THE STARTLING FACTS THAT LIE BEHIND...
"CLARK KENT'S TERRIBLE REPORT CARD!"
ANCIENT HISTORY
LATIN II

ONE MORNING IN SMALLVILLE HIGH, AS YOUNG CLARK KENT ATTENDS A LATIN CLASS...
CLARK--YOU START US OFF BY TRANSLATING THE FIRST PASSAGE IN TODAY'S LATIN ASSIGNMENT!
ER--I'M SORRY, MISS MOORE, BUT I'M NOT PREPARED!

CLARK KENT--I'M SURPRISED! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN EXAMPLE TO THE CLASS! BUT I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON!
ER--NO, MISS MOORE--I HAVEN'T!

NEXT DAY, IN ANOTHER OF CLARK'S CLASSES...
CLARK--I THOUGHT YOU'D GET 100% ON THE EXAM. INSTEAD--YOU'VE FAILED! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, MR. SKIPWORTH!

STRANGE INDEED! HOW CAN CLARK, WHO IS SECRETLY SUPERBOY, BE FAILING IN HIS SCHOOL-WORK? LATER, IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...
BOYS--ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN GETTING POOR GRADES RECENTLY. THEREFORE, WE'RE ORGANIZING A SPECIAL PROBLEM CLASS WHERE YOU'LL EACH RECEIVE EXTRA TUTORING HELP AND ADVICE!

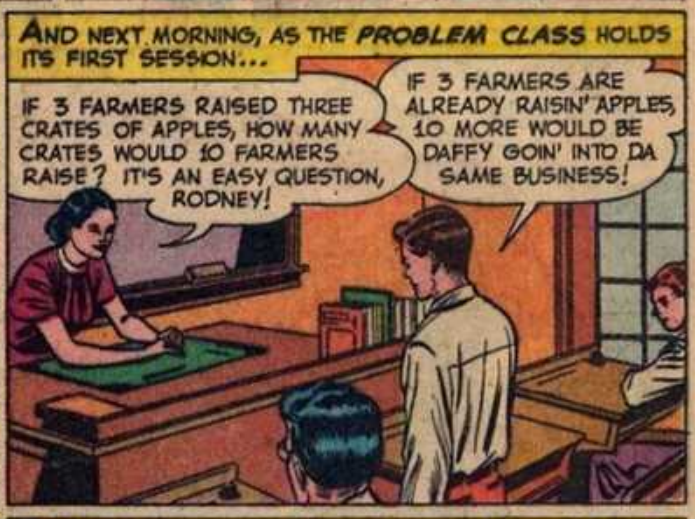
YOU, RODNEY, HAVE BEEN HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING UP SINCE YOU'VE BEEN IN SCHOOL. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL GET SPECIAL HELP!
AW, GEE, MR. MONDAY--I'M JUST DUMB, DAT'S ALL!

NO NORMAL BOY IS REALLY "DUMB". WITH HELP, YOU CAN ALL BE GOOD STUDENTS. YOU--CLARK AND HENRY--WERE RECENTLY HEADS OF YOUR CLASS. SO WELL GET AT THE REASONS FOR YOUR TROUBLE AND HELP YOU. THAT'S ALL--BOYS!

AND THAT EVENING, AS CLARK GETS HOME...
WHY--CLARK! A FAILING REPORT CARD! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
IT WAS DELIBERATE, DAD. EVER SINCE I LEARNED THEY WERE ORGANIZING THAT PROBLEM CLASS, I KNEW THAT THE BEST WAY FOR SUPERBOY TO HELP WAS TO BE PUT IN THAT CLASS MYSELF!

BY GETTING TO KNOW THOSE BOYS WELL, SUPERBOY CAN REALLY HELP THEM. AS FOR ME, YOU KNOW I CAN ACTUALLY MEMORIZE ALL THESE BOOKS IN NO TIME AT ALL!
WELL, SON--I KNEW YOU HAD A GOOD REASON!

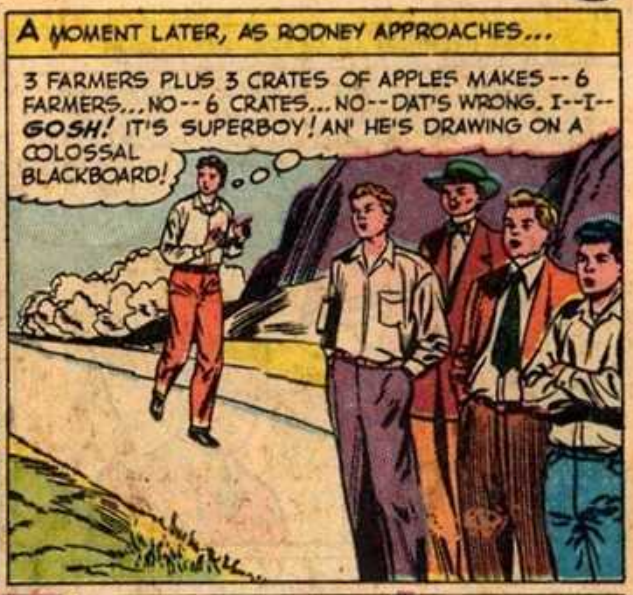
I HEARD HENRY REED IS ALSO IN THAT PROBLEM CLASS. RATHER ODD--HE'S A VERY BRIGHT LAD!
YES--I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM. BUT I'LL CERTAINLY LOOK INTO IT. NOW--I'LL JUST PUT THESE BOOKS BACK IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER!


AND NEXT MORNING, AS THE PROBLEM CLASS HOLDS ITS FIRST SESSION...
IF 3 FARMERS RAISED THREE CRATES OF APPLES, HOW MANY CRATES WOULD 10 FARMERS RAISE? IT'S AN EASY QUESTION, RODNEY!
IF 3 FARMERS ARE ALREADY RAISIN' APPLES, 10 MORE WOULD BE DAFFY GOIN' INTO DA SAME BUSINESS!

AN' BESIDES, IT GIVES ME A HEADACHE! I ALWAYS ADD UP DA FARMERS TOGETHER WIT' DE APPLES 'CAUSE I KEEP FORGETTIN' WHICH NUMBERS GOES WIT' WHICH!
HM--IF RODNEY COULD SEE THESE PROBLEMS CLEARLY, HE'D SOON CATCH ON. WELL, SUPERBOY CAN ARRANGE THAT...

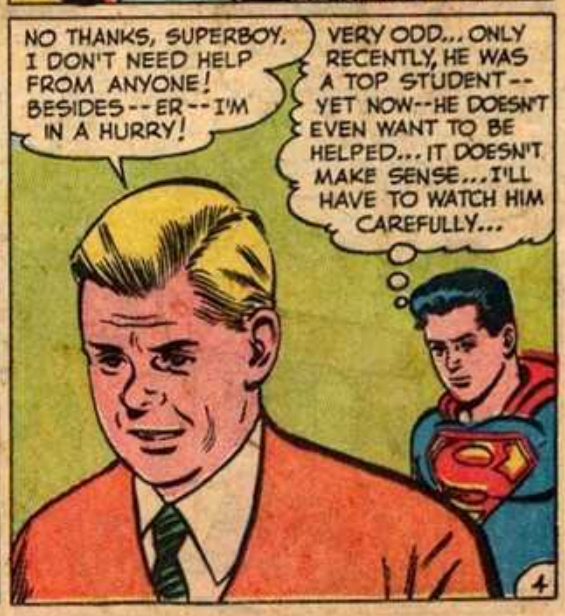
THAT SAME AFTERNOON SHORTLY AFTER SCHOOL HAS ENDED...
RODNEY WILL BE PASSING HERE SOON ON HIS WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL. SO FIRST, I'LL SMOOTH OUT THIS SLATE CLIFF-FACE TO FORM A GIGANTIC BLACKBOARD...

NOW TO CRUSH SOME OF THESE WHITE ROCKS INTO POWDER FORM--AFTER WHICH, I'LL RECOMPRESS THE POWDER IN THE SHAPE OF CHALK FOR USE ON THE BLACKBOARD...
WHAT'S SUPERBOY UP TO?


A MOMENT LATER, AS RODNEY APPROACHES...
3 FARMERS PLUS 3 CRATES OF APPLES MAKES--6 FARMERS...NO--6 CRATES...NO--DAT'S WRONG. I--I--GOSH! IT'S SUPERBOY! AN' HE'S DRAWING ON A COLOSSAL BLACKBOARD!

I JUST CHECKED YOUR CLASS RECORDS, RODNEY! SO I THOUGHT IF YOU COULD SEE THIS TROUBLESOME PROBLEM CLEARLY--
3 FARMERS AN' 3 CRATES OF APPLES! SAY--SURE! YOU JUST DRAW ONE CRATE TO ONE FARMER! SO 10 FARMERS GOT 10 CRATES!

RIGHT! ALL YOU NEEDED TO GRASP THE PRINCIPLE WAS TO SEE IT CLEARLY AND--WHY--WELL--THERE'S HENRY! MAYBE I CAN HELP HIM, TOO!
YEAH! DID HE HAVE TROUBLE WIT' LATIN TODAY! SUMP'IN AWFUL!


NO THANKS, SUPERBOY. I DON'T NEED HELP FROM ANYONE! BESIDES--ER--I'M IN A HURRY!
VERY ODD... ONLY RECENTLY, HE WAS A TOP STUDENT--YET NOW--HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO BE HELPED... IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... I'LL HAVE TO WATCH HIM CAREFULLY...

BUT WHILE SUPERBOY PLANS TO WATCH HENRY, ONE OF THE ONLOOKERS HAS BEEN WATCHING SUPERBOY CLOSELY, SO THAT SOME TIME LATER...
THE OLD BOY FINALLY TALKED--BUT WE GOT A JOB ON OUR HANDS. HE SAYS HE DROPPED THE DOUGH IN THE POND! WE'LL HAVE TO SPEND A MONTH DRAINING IT!
THAT'S TOO LONG, SLUGGER! TOO RISKY!

FOR TEN G'S, IT'S WORTH THE RISK!
WAIT! I JUST LEARNED SUPERBOY'S HELPIN' KIDS IN SOME SPECIAL PROBLEM CLASS. NOW IF I SHAVE THE SOUP-STRAINER AN' FIX MY HAIR TO LOOK LIKE A KID... SLUGGER--IT'S A NATURAL! LISTEN...

WHAT SHADY SCHEME IS IN THE MAKING? AND HOW DOES SUPERBOY FIT INTO IT? NEXT AFTERNOON, IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AT SMALLVILLE HIGH...
I'M AFRAID YOUR SON, LARRY, DID BADLY ON THE ENTRANCE EXAM, MR. SMITHERS. BUT BY PUTTING HIM IN OUR PROBLEM CLASS, I'M SURE WE CAN HELP HIM CATCH UP!
I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THE LAD, SIR!

MEANWHILE, WITH SCHOOL ENDED FOR THE DAY, SUPERBOY IS BUSILY SOLVING THE "PROBLEMS" OF VARIOUS BOYS IN THE SPECIAL CLASS...
EVERY TIME I PUT HIM DOWN, HE CRIES, SUPERBOY, WHICH IS WHY I CAN'T STUDY. AND I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM WHILE MA IS AWAY WORKING!
WE'LL SOON FIX THAT, BOB...

A MOMENT LATER...
GOSH--I CAN ROCK HIM TO SLEEP FROM HERE WITH MY FOOT--AND STUDY AT THE SAME TIME!
SURE--AND SEE HOW HE LIKES WATCHING THESE MOVING TOYS ABOVE THE CRIB..?HE'S COOING WITH DELIGHT!

SHORTLY AFTER--ON A NEARBY FARM...
AND CLEARING UP ALL THIS RAGWEED THAT'S BEEN TORMENTING JOHNNY STOUCH WITH HAYFEVER SO THAT HE CAN'T STUDY TAKES CARE OF ONE MORE BOY IN THE SPECIAL CLASS... AFTER THIS--I'LL LOOK IN ON MY REAL PROBLEM--HENRY REED!

SHORTLY AFTER, ON THE ROOF OF HENRY'S HOUSE, SUPERBOY'S X-RAY VISION AND SUPER-HEARING REVEAL...
BUT, SON--THESE LOW MARKS YOU'VE BEEN GETTING LATELY! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN HONOR STUDENT! CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHING, DAD. I--I GUESS I'M JUST NOT AS SMART AS YOU THOUGHT...
HE'S ONE OF THE SMARTEST KIDS IN THE SCHOOL. I DON'T GET IT. HE WON'T CONFIDE IN ANYONE, EITHER. SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO HELP HIM. I'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING BEFORE HE FAILS FOR THE TERM...
NEXT MORNING, IN THE ROLE OF CLARK KENT, SUPERBOY NOTES THE LATEST MEMBER OF THE PROBLEM CLASS...
LARRY SMITHERS! WHY--HE SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP FROM FATIGUE!
WHEN SUPERBOY CHECKS THE RECORDS, IT'LL BE A CINCH TO TRICK HIM INTO THAT LAKE-DRAINING JOB AFTER THIS SLEEPING ACT...
HMM...
ON THAT SAME DAY, TWO HOURS AFTER THE CLOSE OF SCHOOL...
LARRY! NO WONDER YOU FALL ASLEEP AT SCHOOL! DO YOU SPEND ALL YOUR OFF TIME AT CHORES LIKE TRYING TO DRAIN THIS POND WITH A TINY PUMP LIKE THAT?
SURE--AND A GOOD PART OF THE NIGHT, TOO, SUPERBOY...
THE POND ONLY TAKES UP GROWING SPACE FOR CROPS, AND MY POP IS SO BUSY, IT'S UP TO ME TO DRAIN IT IN TIME FOR THE SECOND PLANTING SEASON!
YOU NEED MORE TIME FOR REST AND STUDY, SO I'LL DRAIN THE POND FOR YOU!
SWIFTLY, SUPERBOY PROCEEDS TO RIP UP A COUPLE OF OLD DRAINAGE PIPES SET INTO THE GROUND NEARBY...
THESE PIPES ARE ROTTING IN THE GROUND ANYWAY, SO I MAY AS WELL PUT THEM TO SOME GOOD USE!
HE FELL FOR IT LIKE A BABY. ONCE THAT POND'S DRAINED, WE'LL GET THE DOUGH AND HEAD FOR THE BORDER...

NEXT, SUPERBOY PROCEEDS TO BEND AND FIT THE PIPES TOGETHER...
FIRST, TO BEND IT INTO SHAPE... THEN TO FORCE THIS PIECE INTO THE OTHER... AND FINALLY TO SHAPE THE MOUTHPIECE...

THRUSTING AN END OF THE PIPE INTO THE POND, SUPERBOY BLOWS MIGHTILY INTO THE MOUTHPIECE...
BY BLOWING THIS WATER UPWARDS WITH TERRIFIC FORCE, IT BREAKS INTO A FINE SPRAY HIGH OVERHEAD--AND IS CARRIED AWAY BY THE BREEZE...

WHOOSH--AN' HE JUST BLEW THE WATER RIGHT OUTA THE POND! A MONTH'S WORK IN FIVE MINUTES! NOW TO ACT GRATEFUL AN' DISTRACT HIM SO HE DON'T SPOT THE DOUGH SOMEWHERE ON THE POND BOTTOM...

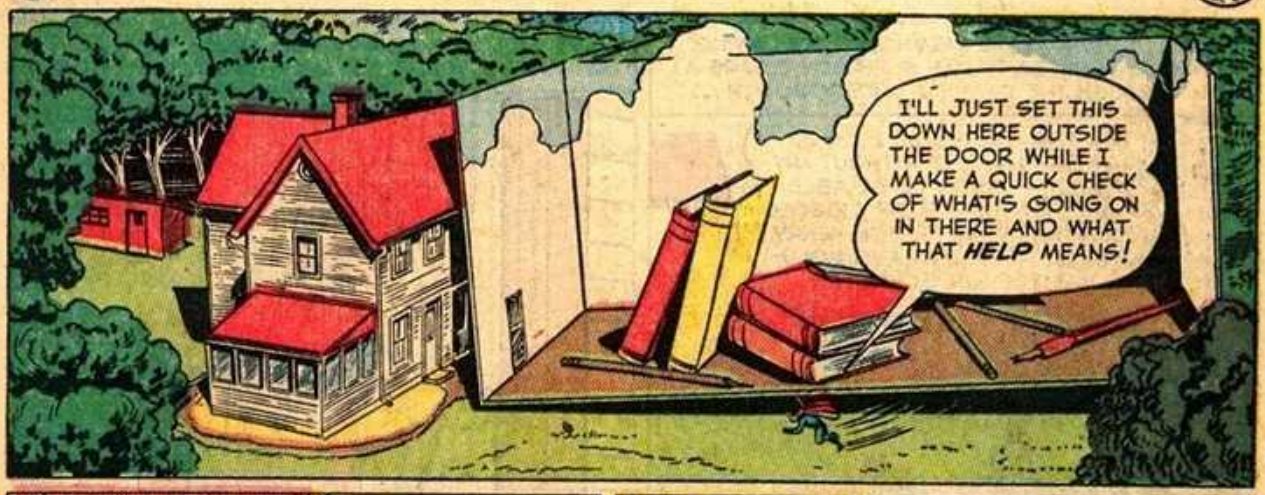
BUT THERE'S HARDLY ANY NEED, FOR SUPERBOY HAS OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND. AS SOON AS THE POND IS DRAINED...
THE JOB'S DONE--WHICH SHOULD LEAVE YOU PLENTY OF TIME TO STUDY--SO LONG, LARRY! I'VE GOT TO HURRY ON AND HELP ANOTHER OF YOUR CLASS-MATES!
THANKS, SUPERBOY--YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH!

SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE WOODS BEYOND TOWN, SUPERBOY GETS BUSY ON A STRANGE PROJECT...
IF HENRY'S SO SECRETIVE ABOUT WHY HE'S FALLEN BEHIND IN HIS STUDIES, HE'S EITHER SHIELDING SOMEONE OR HE HAS SOMETHING ON HIS CONSCIENCE. BUT MAYBE THIS ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND IDEA OF MINE WILL HELP ME FIND OUT...

A SET OF GIANT SCHOOL-BOOKS--RULERS--PENCILS--ONCE I DO ALL THAT, IT'LL BE KIND OF LATE. BUT I'LL PUT IT ALL ASIDE AND HAVE IT READY TO TRY ON HENRY TOMORROW EVENING...

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FARM WHERE SUPERBOY HAS JUST DRAINED THE POND...
YA LIED TO US! WE TRICKED SUPERBOY INTO DRAINING THE POND, BUT THE DOUGH WASN'T ANYWHERE AROUND! FOR THAT, I'M GONNA --
NO--NO--WAIT! IT--IT'S TRUE--I DID LIE, BUT I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT THAT MONEY. AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT MY MONEY. BUT--
--I DON'T WANT TO BE SHOT, I'LL TALK. THAT NIGHT, WHEN YOU WERE CHASING ME TO ROB ME OF THE MONEY, AND I RAN ALL ALONG THE FARM, I DROPPED IT. I DON'T KNOW WHERE--BUT I CAN DRAW A MAP SHOWING THE EXACT PATH I COVERED BEFORE YOU CAUGHT ME!
YOU MEAN--WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH THE WHOLE FARM?
NO-NO! JUST THE PATH I TOOK! THE MONEY'S BOUND TO BE SOMEWHERE ALONG THERE. THIS TIME, I'M NOT LYING. WHY, LOOK--YOU CAN EVEN GET SUPERBOY TO HELP YOU AGAIN. I'LL TELL YOU HOW... BUT PLEASE D-DON'T SHOOT ME!
AND SO, NEXT DAY, IN THE PROBLEM CLASS...
HUH? LARRY'S FAST ASLEEP AGAIN! EVEN AFTER I DRAINED THE POND... WHAT CAN BE WRONG NOW? WELL, MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING SUPERBOY CAN FIX UP BEFORE HE TRIES OUT HIS SPECIAL PLAN FOR HENRY THIS EVENING...
AND SO--LATER THAT DAY--SUPERBOY CONTRIVES TO MEET LARRY ON HIS WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL...
ME AND POP WAS PLANNING ALL NIGHT THE BEST PATHS FOR THE GRAPEVINES WE'RE GONNA PLANT! TODAY, WE'LL START CLEARING THE PATH FOR THE PLANTING. IT'LL TAKE A WEEK, EASY!
BUT YOU CAN'T STUDY AND DO ALL THAT!
BUT NOW'S THE PLANTING SEASON, AND POP NEEDS MY HELP! THE VINE'LL RUN FROM THE BARN TO THE PUMP, THEN AROUND THE MAPLE TREE, UP THE SMALL HILL--
WAIT! REPEAT THAT CAREFULLY--AND I'LL CLEAR THE PATH. THEN YOU CAN STUDY FOR TOMORROW'S EXAMS!

SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE FARMHOUSE, FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN HIM, SUPERBOY CLEARS A PATH THROUGH THE TANGLED UNDERGROWTH...
AFTER THIS, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO THEIR PLANTING WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY--AND I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW THAT STUFF I RIGGED UP YESTERDAY WORKS ON HENRY, SO HE'LL REVEAL WHAT'S HOLDING HIM BACK IN SCHOOL...
WHILE INSIDE THE FARMHOUSE...
THERE HE GOES--RETRACING THE PATH THAT FARMER TOOK WHEN WE CHASED HIM THE OTHER NIGHT. INSTEAD OF OUR HAVING TO DIG THROUGH ALL THAT UNDERGROWTH, WE CAN JUST WALK OUT AN' FIND THE DOUGH SOMEWHERE ALONG THE CLEARED PATH!
THAT'S DONE! NOW TO GET TO THE WOODS WHERE I LEFT THAT ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND DEVICE I PREPARED TO MAKE HENRY REVEAL WHAT HIS TROUBLE IS!
SOME MOMENTS LATER...
I'LL BRING THIS GIANT SET SOMEWHERE NEAR HENRY'S HOUSE, AND JUST AS HE FALLS ASLEEP, I'LL PLACE HIM ON THE SET. AS HE WAKES, HE'LL THINK HE'S DREAMING...
AND BECAUSE HIS STUDIES ARE OBVIOUSLY BOTHERING HIM, THESE GIANT SCHOOL PROPS WILL SEEM LIKE NIGHTMARES TO HIM. THEY OUGHT TO INDUCE HIM TO "TALK IN HIS SLEEP" ABOUT WHAT'S ON HIS MIND. AT LEAST--IT'S WORTH TRYING...
AN UNUSUAL METHOD, BUT AS SUPERBOY HEADS TOWARDS HENRY'S HOUSE, HE PASSES HIGH ABOVE THE FOSTER FARM AGAIN WHERE HE SUDDENLY NOTICES...
WHY--THAT PATH I CUT FOR THOSE GRAPEVINES SPELLS HELP! THAT'S ODD! IT CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE AN ACCIDENT SINCE IT'S THE EXACT PATH LARRY ASKED ME TO CUT. I'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS RIGHT NOW!!
help
9


I'LL JUST SET THIS DOWN HERE OUTSIDE THE DOOR WHILE I MAKE A QUICK CHECK OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE AND WHAT THAT HELP MEANS!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE...
YA LIED AGAIN! THERE WASN'T ANY DOUGH ON THAT PATH AT ALL!
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH STALLING! THIS TIME WE'RE GONNA FINISH YA!
NO-- N-NO!!

BUT SUDDENLY...
HOLD ON! WHY--IT-- IT'S LARRY! WHY, YOU--YOU COULDN'T BE A KID! IT WAS ALL AN ACT!
S-SUPERBOY!

ALL RIGHT-- SO I AIN'T A KID! I WAS MAKIN' USE OF YA! BUT COME ONE STEP CLOSER AN' THIS OLE GEEZER GETS IT, SEE!
YOU RATS! ALL RIGHT! I GUESS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING NOW! BUT REMEMBER-- IF YOU HARM HIM--

WE'D SURE LIKE TO-- BUT WE WON'T NOW UNLESS YOU TRY FOLLOWIN' US! HE'S GONNA BE OUR PASSPORT FOR GETTIN' OUTA HERE!
COME ON, YOU. START MOVING THROUGH THAT DOOR!

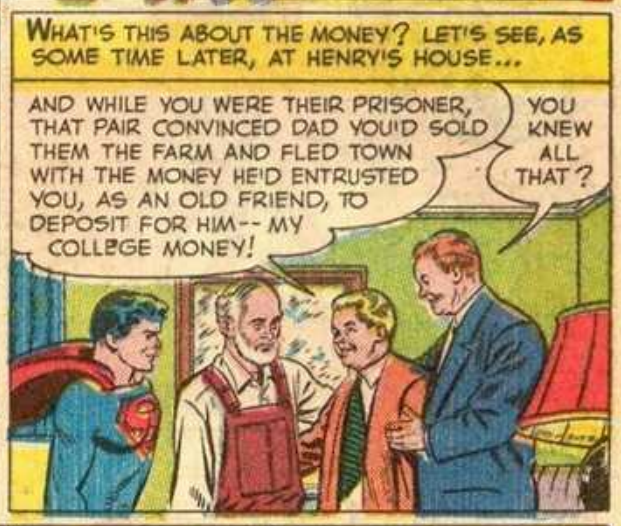
THERE THEY GO-- AND THEY'LL PROBABLY KILL THAT FARMER ANYWAY ONCE THEY GET THE CHANCE. I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING-- BUT WHAT? HM-- (IDEA!) THAT SET I BUILT FOR HENRY! I LEFT IT RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR! THEY'LL WALK RIGHT ONTO IT... MMM...

SUPERBOY HAS SUDDENLY GOTTEN A WILD IDEA! BUT IT'S HIS ONLY HOPE. WILL IT SUCCEED? LET'S SEE...
N-NO! DON'T GO OUT THAT WAY! I LEFT A TRIPTOMETER OUT THERE BEFORE COMING IN. IT'LL SHRINK YOU TO 1/10TH OF NORMAL SIZE!
OH NO, SUPERBOY! YOU AIN'T TRICKING US. SO LONG--AND REMEMBER! KEEP CLEAR!
BUT AS THE ESCAPING THUGS STEP ACROSS THE THRESHOLD ONTO THE STRANGE SET...
HUH? WH-WHAT'S THIS? WHERE ARE WE?
I--I--DON'T KNOW! B-BUT--HE--HE WASN'T KIDDING! WE-WE'VE SHRUNK--ALL THREE OF US!
BY ITSELF, THAT SET WON'T BE CONVINCING ENOUGH. IF I CAN ADD ONE FINISHING TOUCH BEFORE THEY CATCH ON! HAVE TO WORK FAST THOUGH... WITH THESE MATERIALS...
AS HE GOES ABOUT HIS SPLIT-SECOND PREPARATIONS, SUPERBOY SUDDENLY FINDS, UNDER ONE OF THE LOOSENED FLOORBOARDS...
HUH? WHAT'S THIS? A WAD OF CASH--AND THIS SLIP SIGNED BY HENRY'S FATHER--FOR DEPOSITING THE MONEY IN HENRY'S NAME! WHY--WHAT'S IT DOING HERE? CAN THIS CONNECT WITH WHAT'S BOTHERING HENRY? BUT, NO TIME TO THINK OF THIS NOW!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
I--I D-DON'T KNOW... MAYBE IT'S JUST A TRAP. MAYBE WE AIN'T MIDGETS BECAUSE OF SOME CRAZY GADGET SUPERBOY LEFT OUT HERE. MAYBE THESE ARE J-JUST GIANT PROPS!
L-LET'S HOPE SO. COME ON--LET'S LOOK AROUND MORE...
BUT AS THE THUGS START ACROSS WHAT THEY WILL SWIFTLY DISCOVER IS ONLY A STAGE SET, SUDDENLY...
G-GREAT SCOTT! W-WE'VE SHRUNK ALL RIGHT! WE AIN'T N-NO BIGGER THAN ANTS! L-LOOK! IT'S S-SUPERBOY!
OH-OH!
HE--HE W-WASN'T KIDDING!
11

AS SUPERBOY HAD HOPED, THE VILLAINS' TERROR IS SO GREAT THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE THOUGHT FOR THEIR HOSTAGE. INSTEAD...
DO ANYTHING YA LIKE WITH US, SUPERBOY! ARREST US--TAKE US TO JAIL--ONLY--PLEASE--PLEASE--GET US BACK TO NORMAL SIZE!
YEAH--TURN OFF THAT TRIP-TOMETER OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT--PLEASE!

WITH THE THUGS' GUNS DISCARDED, AND THEIR HOSTAGE NO LONGER IN DANGER--SUPERBOY SUDDENLY REVEALS HIS GIGANTIC HOAX...
HUH? WHAT? IT--IT WAS A DUMMY!
EXACTLY! A DUMMY--SOME BIG PROPS--AND A LITTLE DOUBLE-TALK TO SCARE THE WITS OUT OF A COUPLE OF SCOUNDRELS!

OH, NO--THOSE WEAPONS WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD NOW!
AT LAST! MY FRIGHTFUL ORDEAL IS OVER! I CAN DEPOSIT THE MONEY THAT MY FRIEND ENTRUSTED TO ME--THE MONEY THESE SCOUNDRELS MADE HIM THINK I ABSCONDED WITH!


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE MONEY? LET'S SEE, AS SOME TIME LATER, AT HENRY'S HOUSE...
AND WHILE YOU WERE THEIR PRISONER, THAT PAIR CONVINCED DAD YOU'D SOLD THEM THE FARM AND FLED TOWN WITH THE MONEY HE'D ENTRUSTED YOU, AS AN OLD FRIEND, TO DEPOSIT FOR HIM--MY COLLEGE MONEY!
YOU KNEW ALL THAT?

SURE! THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO FAIL! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GO IN DEBT TO SEND ME TO COLLEGE! BUT NOW--I CAN PASS EASILY!
YOUR FOOLING THEM INTO HAVING ME WRITE HELP ON THE GROUND SO I'D SEE IT FROM THE AIR--THAT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS!
12

AND SPEAKING OF GENIUS--SOME MONTHS LATER, AT SMALLVILLE HIGH...
YOU LADS IN THE PROBLEM CLASS HAVE MADE PROGRESS LITTLE SHORT OF GENIUS! YOU'VE SURPASSED THE REST OF THE SCHOOL!
FOR WHICH WE CAN ALL THANK SUPERBOY, EH, CLARK?
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, HENRY...
THE END

PEG
I'LL BE A SENSATION WITH THIS NEW GOWN AT THE DANCE TOMORROW NIGHT !
HENRY BOLTINOFF
HMM - IT'S CUT OUT QUITE A BIT IN THE BACK. I'LL GO TO THE BEACH TOMORROW AND GET A NICE EVEN TAN !
AND SO...
TO LOCKERS
JUST THE DAY FOR A NICE SUNBURN !
HI, GANG !
H'LO, PEG !
THERE ! I'M NICE AND COMFORTABLE !

C'MON, PEG, WE'RE ALL GOING INTO THE WATER!
NO, THANKS!
PEG, DO YOU WANT A HOT DOG, OR ICE CREAM? WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE STAND!
NO, I'M NOT MOVING!
PEG, YOU'VE BEEN LYING THERE SO QUIET ALL DAY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?
I CAME TO GET A NICE EVEN SUNBURN FOR MY NEW FORMAL. I GUESS I CAN CALL IT A DAY, NOW!
THAT NIGHT
I'M SORRY, REGGIE, BUT PEG WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TONIGHT. SHE COULDN'T EVEN GET HER DRESS ON - SHE'S SO SUNBURNT!
OWWW
THE END

QUICK QUIZ

WHY CAN'T SNAKES CHEW THEIR FOOD?

BECAUSE SNAKES' TEETH POINT BACKWARDS! THIS COMPELS THEM TO SWALLOW THEIR FOOD... WHOLE!

WHICH CONTINENT IS LARGER.... EUROPE OR SOUTH AMERICA?

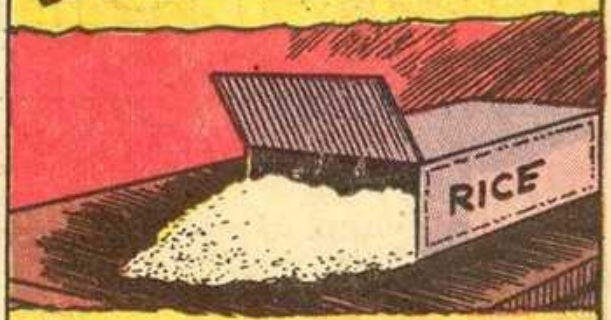
SOUTH AMERICA IS ALMOST TWICE THE SIZE OF EUROPE!

OF ALL THE ANIMALS IN AFRICA WHICH ONE RUNS THE FASTEST?

THE OSTRICH!

IT CAN OUTRUN ANY ANIMAL ON THE CONTINENT!

IS RICE ALWAYS WHITE?



No! THE THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF RICE VARY IN COLOR FROM WHITE TO GOLD TO BLACK!

J. TELLMAN

ADVERTISEMENT

NEAT TREAT!

Neddy Nestlé's had his way- Now mother "treats" 'most every day!

Because his pet dessert for lunch Is a bar of NESTLÉ'S CRUNCH!

RICH, CREAMY, CRUNCHY GOODNESS...

SHORTY
GOLLY, THE BEACH IS CROWDED. THERE ISN'T A SPOT WHERE WE CAN SIT DOWN!
HMM -
TIDE CHART
C'MON, I KNOW A PLACE TO PARK OURSELVES!
YOU CALL THIS A PLACE TO SIT DOWN? WE'RE IN THE WATER!
I KNOW. BUT IN HALF AN HOUR THE TIDE GOES OUT - THEN WE CAN SIT DOWN!
THE END

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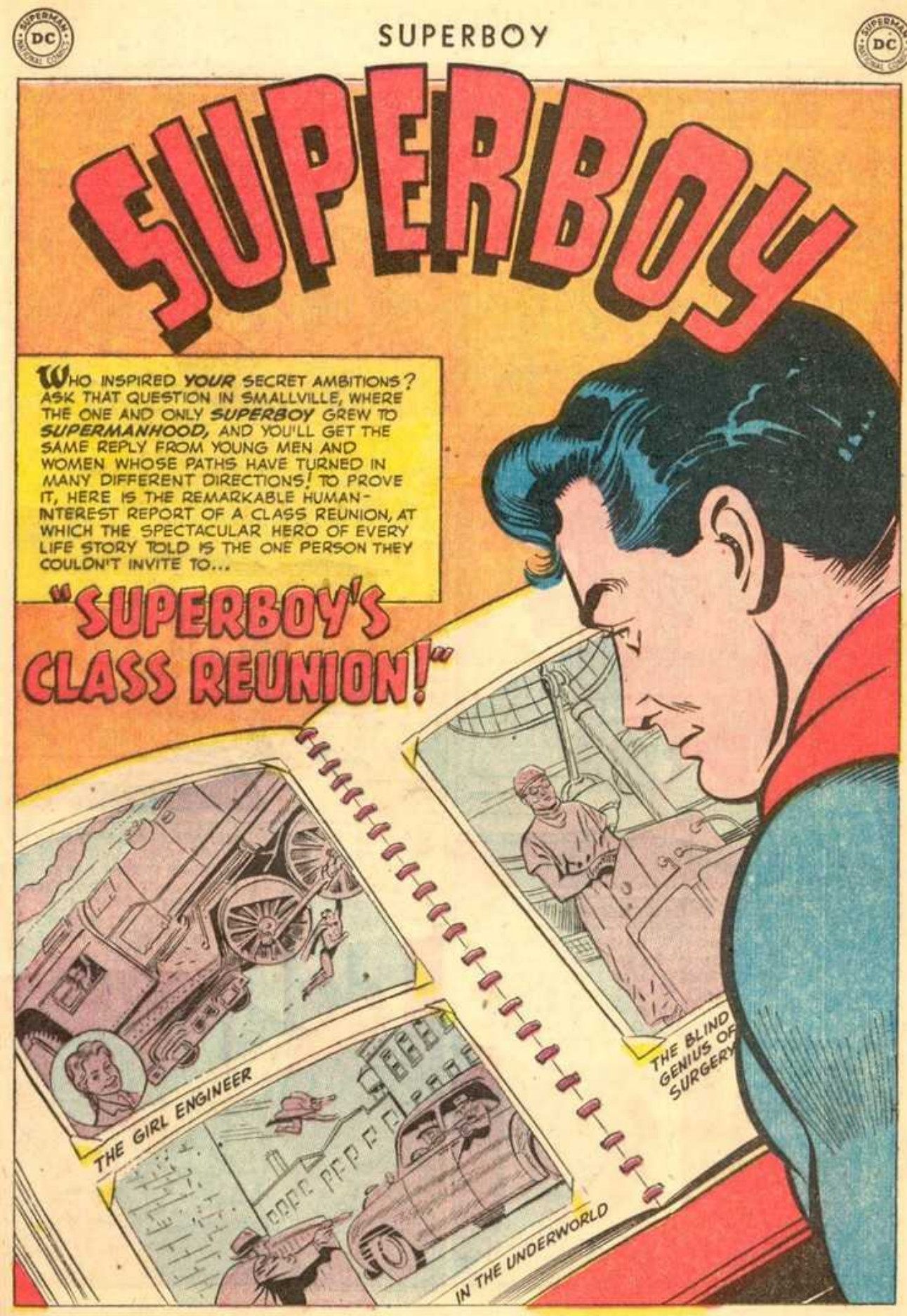
SUPERBOY
WHO INSPIRED YOUR SECRET AMBITIONS? ASK THAT QUESTION IN SMALLVILLE, WHERE THE ONE AND ONLY SUPERBOY GREW TO SUPERMANHOOD, AND YOU'LL GET THE SAME REPLY FROM YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE PATHS HAVE TURNED IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS! TO PROVE IT, HERE IS THE REMARKABLE HUMAN-INTEREST REPORT OF A CLASS REUNION, AT WHICH THE SPECTACULAR HERO OF EVERY LIFE STORY TOLD IS THE ONE PERSON THEY COULDN'T INVITE TO...
"SUPERBOY'S CLASS REUNION!"
THE GIRL ENGINEER
THE BLIND GENIUS OF SURGERY
IN THE UNDERWORLD

ONE MORNING IN METROPOLIS, CLARK KENT, DAILY PLANET REPORTER, RECEIVES AN UNEXPECTED LETTER FROM SMALLVILLE, HIS BOYHOOD HOME TOWN...

Dear Clark,
Bet you've forgotten that party at my house when some of us Junior High kids wrote down our secret ambitions and sealed them in envelopes, to be opened after 15 years. Well, it will be exactly 15 years next Friday evening, and I'm asking the same gang to congregate at the same place, to open the envelopes and maybe laugh at ourselves a little--for a special television program. Please come, for old times' sake!
Irma Sayres

GOSH! I *HAD* FORGOTTEN! EVEN NOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT I WROTE...BUT I'LL BE THERE, TO GREET THE OLD GANG--AND MAKE SURE I DIDN'T WRITE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT SUGGEST *SUPERMAN'S* SECRET IDENTITY!

THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY ON THE MEMORY-LADEN MAIN STREET OF SMALLVILLE...

SAME OLD FOLKSY LITTLE PLACE, MOSTLY QUIET, BUT PLENTY EXCITING AT TIMES! NOT MANY PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER CLARK KENT--BUT *SUPERBOY* WON'T BE FORGOTTEN HERE IN A HURRY!

SUPERBOY SNACK SHOP

SMALLVILLE, THE TOWN THAT PRODUCED SUPERBOY, IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.

IRMA'S HOUSE HASN'T CHANGED--AND SINCE SHE USED TO BE THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN SCHOOL, I HOPE *SHE* HASN'T CHANGED TOO MUCH! LET'S SEE--NEALE OSBORNE WAS AT THAT FIRST PARTY, 15 YEARS AGO, AND AL PECK, WHO USED TO LOVE DETECTIVE STORIES, AND SEVERAL OTHERS!

AND UPON ENTERING THE GAILY DECORATED HOUSE...

CLARK KENT--LATE AS ALWAYS, AND LOOKING AS OWLISH AS EVER IN THOSE GLASSES! COME IN AND SEE HOW SUCCESSFUL YOUR OLD CLASSMATES HAVE GROWN!

WAIT--GIVE ME A CHANCE TO ADMIRE YOU, IRMA! YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, SINCE YOU STOPPED DOING YOUR HAIR IN PIGTAILS!

SORRY I CAN'T *SEE* YOU, CLARK, DUE TO A LITTLE MISHAP IN THE WAR--BUT YOU *SOUND* SASSY AS EVER!

YOU AREN'T MISSING A THING, NEALE--AND YOU LOOK AS IF YOUR BLINDNESS HASN'T HANDICAPPED YOU A BIT! THERE'S AL--BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN A CHEERFUL FRAME OF MIND!

SVTV

HE'S BARELY SPOKEN TO ANYONE, CLARK! GUESS HE BROUGHT HIS PRIVATE TROUBLES ALONG!
ALSO A MASK AND A PISTOL, ACCORDING TO MY X-RAY VISION! WHY SHOULD AL BE CARRYING EQUIPMENT LIKE THAT TO A PARTY OF OLD SCHOOL CHUMS?
SV TV

AND AS IRMA OPENS THE PROGRAM...
AL IS FIDGETY AS A CAGED PANTHER! CAN IT BE THAT HE'S SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE WROTE 15 YEARS AGO THAT HE FEELS IT NECESSARY TO TOTE A GUN?
LET'S GO, PALS! THE FIRST ENVELOPE IS NEALE OSBORN'S! I'LL READ WHAT'S IN IT, THEN HE'LL TELL WHAT INSPIRED HIS BOYHOOD AMBITION--AND WHAT CAME OF IT!

NEALE WROTE, "MY AMBITION IS TO SAVE LIVES THROUGH SURGERY, OUT OF GRATITUDE FOR SUPERBOY'S LIFE-SAVING, AFTER MY RECKLESSNESS NEARLY CAUSED A TRAGEDY!"
AND DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T REALIZED THAT AMBITION--IN SPITE OF MY BEING BLIND!
WHAT?? YOU A SURGEON, NEALE?

I IMAGINE CLARK REMEMBERS THAT MISADVENTURE THAT STARTED IT ALL, ONE DAY IN THE OLD GRANITE QUARRY SOUTH OF TOWN.
DO I! WE WERE HIKING, AND CAME ACROSS A PORTABLE DYNAMITE MAGAZINE THE WORKMEN HAD LEFT ON A LEDGE ABOVE THE QUARRY...

"AS USUAL, NEALE WAS DARING, AND I WAS CAUTIOUS..."
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, CLARK! IT'S SAFE AS--OOPS!
STOP IT, NEALE! PLAYING WITH DYNAMITE IS--LOOK OUT!
DANGER DYNAMITE

"NEALE DROPPED, AND I DUCKED FOR COVER FAST! BUT, LUCKILY, SUPERBOY WASN'T FAR AWAY..."
MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS THE DYNAMITE BOUNCING AROUND INSIDE! THE SHOCK OF GRABBING IT SUDDENLY MIGHT CAUSE AN EXPLOSION... MUST HANDLE THIS PROBLEM ANOTHER WAY!
HELP!

ONE WAY IS TO KNOCK THE WHOLE CLIFF DOWN, TO SMOTHER THE BLAST!
DANGER!
HUH? A KID--FALLIN' WITH THE DYNAMITE! LAND O' GOSHEN--NOTHIN' CAN SAVE EITHER OF US!
OF COURSE, THERE'S THE DETAIL OF GETTING NEALE AND SAM TAYLOR, THE WATCHMAN, CLEAR BEFORE THE CLIFF FALLS ON THEM, TOO!
CRASH!
A SPLIT SECOND LATER...
SUPERBOY! THANK GOODNESS! BUT THE WATCHMAN!
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON HIM, NEALE!
DANGE
WELL, SUPERBOY DID REACH SAM IN TIME--JUST AS THE DYNAMITE WENT OFF! THE CONCUSSION MUST'VE...ER... KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS, BECAUSE I DON'T RECALL WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT! BUT I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, NEALE!
I'LL SAY I HAVEN'T!
"WITH THE EXPLOSION, I FIGURED WE WERE ALL SAFE--TILL I SAW THAT SAM HAD GONE SUDDENLY LIMP IN SUPERBOY'S ARM..."
WE MADE IT!
NOT ALTOGETHER! A SLIVER OF ROCK DROVE INTO SAM'S CHEST, RIGHT TOWARD HIS HEART! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY!
BA-BOOM MM!
"SOON, AFTER, IN DR. REYNOLDS' OFFICE IN TOWN..."
AN EMERGENCY, DOCTOR! SAM TAYLOR'S HEART MUSCLE HAS BEEN PUNCTURED BY A SLIVER OF ROCK... BUT HE'S STILL ALIVE!
HEART PUNCTURED? IF THAT'S TRUE, THE CHANCES ARE A MILLION TO ONE AGAINST HIM, SUPERBOY! BUT LET'S SEE!
4

IT'S MY FAULT! I SHOULD BE LYING THERE IN HIS PLACE!
AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION MIGHT SAVE HIM! BUT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY DO IT WITHOUT X-RAY PHOTOS--AND THE DELAY IN GETTING THEM WOULD BE FATAL!
BUT YOU MUST OPERATE NOW, DR. REYNOLDS! I'LL USE MY X-RAY VISION TO GUIDE YOUR SCALPEL!

"SO SUPERBOY'S MIRACULOUS EYES, EVEN MORE THAN A VETERAN DOCTOR'S SKILL, GAVE OLD SAM A SLIM FIGHTING CHANCE FOR LIFE..."
THAT'S IT... A SIXTEENTH OF AN INCH MORE, AND YOU CAN REACH THE SLIVER WITH THE FORCEPS! IT'S ALL IN ONE PIECE, SO THERE'LL BE NO FRAGMENTS LEFT!
IF ONLY HE LIVES, I--I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR MY FOOLISHNESS TODAY!

WELL, SAM TAYLOR IS STILL ALIVE -- AND ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, I REALIZED MY AMBITION OF SAVING OTHERS' LIVES IN SIMILAR EMERGENCIES!
BUT HOW COULD YOU?... I--I MEAN WITHOUT YOUR SIGHT?

BEFORE MY BLINDNESS, I STUDIED RADIOLOGY! LATER, I INVENTED AN X-RAY MACHINE WITH WHICH SURGEONS COULD SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING, WHILE THEY WERE DOING IT-- JUST AS SUPERBOY DID THAT TIME!
YES, I'VE READ OF IT...THE OSBORN RADIOSCOPE! IT'S SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES! NEALE REALIZED HIS AMBITION IN AN EVEN BIGGER WAY THAN HE PLANNED!

THUS ENDS THE FIRST DRAMATIC TALE, WITH SUPERBOY AS ITS HERO. AND AS THE SECOND ENVELOPE IS DRAWN...
LOOK, IRMA--CAN'T I HAVE MINE NOW? THIS IS SILLY!
SILLY? BUT I'VE ALREADY DRAWN THE NEXT ONE, AL! I'LL LOOK FOR YOURS RIGHT AFTERWARD! THIS ONE IS-- WHY, IT'S MY OWN!

HUH! I SHOULD HAVE GRABBED MINE RIGHT AT THE VERY START!
AL SEEMS DESPERATE-- ALMOST DANGEROUS! HE USED TO BE MOODY AND TEMPERAMENTAL, BUT NOT THIS BAD! HAS HE TURNED CROOKED IN THESE LAST 15 YEARS? IS THAT WHAT THE GUN AND THE MASK MEAN?

BUT ONCE AGAIN, A MORE IMMEDIATE PUZZLE OBSCURES THE DEEPER MYSTERY OF AL'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR...

LISTEN... I WROTE, "MY AMBITION IS TO DRIVE ENGINE 99, HAULING THE ***CANNONBALL EXPRESS***, LIKE DADDY." AND THANKS TO ***SUPERBOY***, IT CAME TRUE!

BUT HOW COULD IT? THAT RAILROAD HAS AN IRONCLAD RULE AGAINST WOMEN ENGINEERS!

"DAD WAS PROUD OF HIS JOB, AND I WAS PROUD OF HIM! HE TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT RAILROADING THAT I WAS ABLE TO BUILD A WORKING MODEL OF THE LOCOMOTIVE HE DROVE..."

ALL THAT'S MISSING IS MY OWN FACE IN THE CAB WINDOW! IRMA, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BOY!

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT NOW, DAD?

"WE KIDS USED TO RIDE THE CANNONBALL EXPRESS--REMEMBER? WELL, ONE MORNING, WHILE SPEEDING THROUGH THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS..."

AREN'T YOU SCARED OF STORMS LIKE THIS, IRMA?

GREAT SCOTT! LIGHTNING'S WRECKED THE TRACK!

CRACK

NOTHING CAN GO WRONG WITH DADDY AT THE THROTTLE! HE'S NEVER YET HAD AN ACCIDENT, OR EVEN BEEN LATE!

"I REMEMBER PEOPLE SCREAMING, AND CLARK DASHING FOR THE PLATFORM, AS OUR CAR LURCHED SICKENINGLY..."

OH-H-H! I SHOULDN'T HAVE BRAGGED!

THE TRAIN'S JUMPED THE TRACK!

SIT TIGHT, TILL I SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!

"A MOMENT LATER, AS IF BY MAGIC, ***SUPERBOY*** APPEARED, AND..."

THE ENGINEER--IRMA'S FATHER--AND THE FIREMAN ARE BOTH KNOCKED OUT! MY FIRST JOB IS TO PUT THE LOCOMOTIVE BACK ON THE RAILS AND GET THE CARS SAFELY OVER THE TORN-UP SPOT!

BUT SOMEONE SHOULD BE UP FRONT, HANDLING THE THROTTLE WHILE I CLEAR THE TRACK! HMM...BESIDES BEING AN EXPERT ***MODEL*** RAILROADER, IRMA KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THE ***REAL*** THING...

SUPERBOY, YOU SAVED US--EVERYBODY ABOARD! BUT WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER--?
HE NEEDS YOU, IRMA! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT--BUT IF YOU'RE GAME TO TAKE OVER HIS JOB FOR AWHILE, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO KEEP HIS RECORD UNBLEMISHED!

"BUT JUST AS SUPERBOY WAS ABOUT TO DEPOSIT ME IN THE CAB..."
LOOK, A ROCK-SLIDE! GET ME TO THE AIR-BRAKE LEVER!
NO! YOU CAN CUT DOWN THE SPEED A LITTLE, BUT DON'T STOP, OR THE TRAIN WILL LOSE TIME THAT CAN'T BE MADE UP IN THIS STORM! I'LL HAVE THAT PILE OF GRANITE OUT OF YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU REACH IT!

"SWIFT AS A THUNDERBOLT, THE BOY OF STEEL SMASHED INTO THE BARRIER, HIS FISTS DRIVING WITH THE IMPACT OF ATOMIC BLASTS..."
BY PULVERIZING THESE ROCKS INTO DUST--INSTEAD OF JUST DUMPING THEM--I'LL KEEP THEM FROM SMASHING TREES AND DAMMING THE RIVER BELOW!

"AND AS THE TRAIN ROARED ON, HIS SUPER-BREATH SWEPT THE TRACK CLEAN..."
IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE--EXCEPT FOR DAD BEING HURT!
THE WIND WILL SCATTER THE POWDER OVER A WIDE AREA, AND THE RAIN WILL SETTLE IT!

YOU'LL DO FINE TILL YOUR FATHER CAN TAKE OVER, IRMA! I'M GOING TO FIX THE TRESTLE BEFORE ANOTHER TRAIN COMES ALONG!
WHERE--? WHAT--? MY HEAD!

IRMA! MY LITTLE GIRL--TAKING OVER FOR YOUR OLD DAD WHEN HE NEEDS A HAND! NOW I KNOW THAT, MALE OR FEMALE, OURS IS THE RAILROADINGEST FAMILY ON EARTH!
OH, DAD! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU! BUT I WAS THRILLED, TOO... WE'RE RUNNING ON TIME--AND YOU'VE GOT SUPERBOY TO THANK FOR EVERYTHING!

"RAILROAD OFFICIALS WANTED TO REWARD ME. THEY WOULDN'T LET ME DRIVE AN ENGINE--BUT WHEN I GRADUATED, THEY GAVE ME THE NEXT BEST JOB THEY HAD..."
I CAN'T GET OVER IT! MY LITTLE GIRL--THAT I USED TO WISH WAS A BOY SO HE COULD BE A TRAINMAN--RUNNING 100 TRAINS!
INCLUDING THE CANNONBALL EXPRESS! DAD, BETTER HURRY... OLD 99 IS DUE TO ROLL IN EXACTLY 12 MINUTES!
AND I'M STILL RUNNING 100 TRAINS AS CHIEF DISPATCHER, BECAUSE THE RAILROAD IS GRATEFUL TO ME--FOR WHAT SUPERBOY DID!
CAREFUL, IRMA... PEOPLE LISTENING TO THIS PROGRAM IN OTHER TOWNS WILL BEGIN TO THINK THEY'RE UNDERPRIVILEGED, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T GROW UP WITH SUPERBOY!
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JUST THEN...
WHAT'S AL UP TO NOW?
THIS IS IT! NO SENSE WAITING ANY LONGER!
AL--WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S SILLY, BURNING UP SOMETHING YOU WROTE 15 YEARS AGO! PLEASE DON'T SPOIL EVERYTHING!
SINCE I WROTE IT, I GUESS I CAN BURN IT IF I WANT! GO ON WITH YOUR PARTY, IRMA... I'LL LEAVE, SO YOU WON'T BE EMBARRASSED ANY MORE!
FLAMES CONSUME THE ENVELOPE SWIFTLY--BUT NOT BEFORE CLARK HAS READ ITS CONTENTS WITH HIS X-RAY VISION...
OH, OH... NO WONDER HE DIDN'T WANT THAT ON THE AIR! IT WOULD SOUND MIGHTY BAD--ESPECIALLY TO ANYONE WHO KNEW HE WAS CARRYING A GUN AND A MASK!
My ambition is to make a reputation that will be the talk of the underworld for years to come.
YOU USED TO BE HIS GOOD FRIEND, CLARK! FOLLOW HIM AND SEE IF YOU CAN PERSUADE HIM TO COME BACK!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
IT WON'T HURT TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, ANYWAY--THOUGH IT'S HARD TO THINK OF AL STEPPING OUTSIDE THE LAW AFTER WHAT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE THAT PARTY 15 YEARS AGO!
8

WHAT HAPPENED 15 YEARS AGO? ONCE AGAIN, CLARK'S THOUGHTS TURN BACK--TO A DAY WHEN HE WAS WORKING IN HIS FATHER'S STORE...
HUH? AL'S TAKING AN IMPRESSION OF THE LOCK, JUST AS CROOKS DO! BUT HE'S NO CROOK! UNLESS--HMM...I'LL TELL DAD I'VE GOT AN ERRAND, AND LOOK INTO THIS, AS SUPERBOY!
SALE COOKIES 10¢ DOZ.

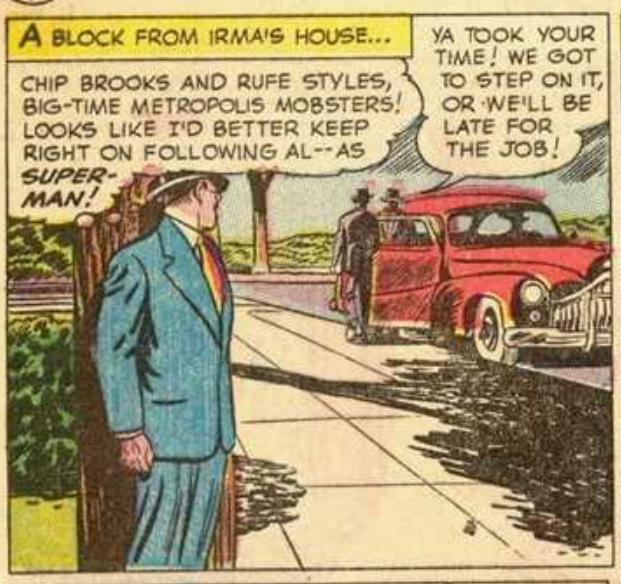
SOON, AT A RAMSHACKLE, ABANDONED HOUSE OUTSIDE THE TOWN LIMITS...
I TRIED THESE KEYS ON MOST OF THE MAIN STREET STORES, LIKE YOU SAID! IT'S THE LAST THING I'M SUPPOSED TO DO FOR YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH--THE LAST THING YA'LL DO FOR ANYBODY!
WHY, THOSE MEN ARE ESCAPED CONVICTS, WHOSE PICTURES WERE IN THE PAPER THE OTHER DAY!

BUT YOU PROMISED NOT TO HURT ME OR MY FAMILY IF I'D HELP YOU!
WHO'S HURTIN' ANYBODY? YOUR FAMILY DON'T MEAN NOTHIN' TO US--AN' YA WON'T FEEL A THING WHEN WE FIX YA SO YA CAN'T TELL HOW WE'RE GONNA ROB THEM STORES--AFTER WE FILE THESE KEYS TO FIT!

BUT BEFORE THE THUGS COULD PULL THEIR TRIGGERS...
OW-OOO--THE GUN MELTED IN MY HAND! THE KID DOUBLE-CROSSED US!
BY BURNING YOUR FINGERS WITH THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION, I SAVED YOU RATS FROM BURNING IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
SUPERBOY! THANK GOODNESS!

THEY SAID THEY'D BURN MY HOUSE AND SHOOT DAD AND MOM UNLESS I HELPED THEM, SUPERBOY! I'M GLAD YOU GOT THEM--EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO TO JAIL WITH THEM!
YOU GO TO JAIL, AL? DIDN'T YOU LEAD ME TO THEM? DIDN'T THEY JUST SAY YOU'D DOUBLE-CROSSED THEM? THAT'S ALL ANYONE NEEDS TO KNOW!

AND IN THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER FERVENT YOUTHFUL AMBITION WAS BORN...
THANKS A MILLION, SUPERBOY! AND TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE, I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO FIGHTING CRIME, JUST AS YOU DO!
YOU COULDN'T PICK A MORE USEFUL CAREER, AL! AND YOU CAN CALL ON ME FOR HELP ANY TIME!
NOW, AFTER 15 YEARS, HAS AL GONE BACK ON HIS FIRM RESOLVE?


A BLOCK FROM IRMA'S HOUSE...
CHIP BROOKS AND RUFE STYLES, BIG-TIME METROPOLIS MOBSTERS! LOOKS LIKE I'D BETTER KEEP RIGHT ON FOLLOWING AL--AS SUPER-MAN!
YA TOOK YOUR TIME! WE GOT TO STEP ON IT, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE JOB!

PRESENTLY, AT A SECLUDED FARMHOUSE...
COME IN, BOYS! AL, I'VE BEEN WATCHING A VERY INTERESTING TELEVISION SHOW!
GOLDIE LYNN, ONE OF THE BIGGEST GANG CHIEFS! IF AL TRAVELS REGULARLY WITH THESE BIRDS, HE'S WELL ON HIS WAY TO BEING AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE UNDER-WORLD!

...AND SO--THANKS TO SUPERBOY--I REALIZED MY AMBITION TO SING WITH THE...
I WAS DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU GOT BASHFUL ABOUT YOUR BOYHOOD AMBITION, AL! WHAT WAS IT?
IT WAS TIED IN SO CLOSELY WITH WHAT I'M DOING NOW, IT MIGHT HAVE MADE SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS OF ME, GOLDIE!

HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF THE GUN?
I'M SUSPICIOUS ALREADY! TAKE HIM, CHIP... IF RUFE AND I FIND A TRAP, WE'LL TELL YOU BY WALKIE-TALKIE! IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM US IN A HALF-HOUR, SHOOT HIM ANYWAY!
OKAY, BOSS!

AND AS THE CROOKS EMERGE FROM THEIR HIDE-OUT...
ONLY THE BUTLER'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE JOINT, AND THE SAFE CONTAINING THE JEWELS WILL CRACK EASY! BUT IF THE COPS HAVE BEEN TIPPED OFF BY AL, A FLASH TO CHIP WILL KEEP HIM FROM TESTIFYING--IF HE'S SUNG!
AL WILL BE SAFE FOR A FEW MINUTES, SO I'LL STRING ALONG WITH THESE TWO!

MINUTES LATER, ON THE GROUNDS OF A RICH MAN'S COUNTRY ESTATE...
HELLO, CHIP! WE'RE GOING IN! LOOKS OKAY FROM OUTSIDE--BUT KEEP LISTENING, AND KEEP YOUR GAT POINTED AT AL!
POLICEMEN! IT IS A TRAP! IF GOLDIE TELLS CHIP, AL WILL DIE--AND IF HE'S KEPT FROM TALKING TO CHIP, AL WILL DIE, TOO! THIS CALLS FOR FAST THINKING!

WHILE BACK IN THE FARMHOUSE...
I WANTED TO BE A MAGICIAN, SO I COULD DO WONDERFUL STUNTS LIKE SUPERBOY! WELL--
SHUT THAT THING OFF!
PRETTY JITTERY, AIN'T YA? JUST LIKE YA KNEW YA'D DOUBLE-CROSSED US, AN' EXPECT TO GET SHOT ANY SECOND!
THEN...
IT'S OKAY, CHIP! THERE'S NOT EVEN A BUTLER HERE! APOLOGIZE TO AL--GIVE HIM BACK HIS ROD--AND BOTH OF YOU HUSTLE RIGHT OVER HERE!
YA DON'T SAY, GOLDIE! I'LL TELL AL, AN' WE'LL BE RIGHT OVER!
HUH? I--I DON'T GET IT!
SOON AFTER...
WIDE OPEN! THE BOYS ARE BACK IN THE STUDY, WHERE THE SAFE WITH THE JEWELS IS! GOLDIE SURE WAS WRONG ABOUT YA, AL, OL' PAL!
EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES--SOMETIMES TWICE IN A ROW!
HI, BOYS! RUFE'S ALL SET TO BLOW HER! AL, I'M SORRY ABOUT--HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARRESTING YOU, GOLDIE--ALL OF YOU! THE LAW'S BEEN SAVING CELLS FOR YOU AT STATE PRISON FOR YEARS! I THOUGHT OTHER LAWMEN WOULD BE ON HAND, BUT--
SUDDENLY...
HERE THEY ARE, AL! I BEAT GOLDIE IN AND HAD THEM HIDE TILL HE GAVE YOU A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH ON THE WALKIE-TALKIE! I FIGURED YOU WERE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW--ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T SPOT A BADGE ANYWHERE ON YOU!
SUPERMAN! YOU'VE SAVED ME FOR THE SECOND TIME IN 15 YEARS! I WASN'T AFRAID TO DIE, BUT I HATED TO SEE THREE OF THE WORST CROOKS IN THE STATE GET AWAY!
AS AN UNDERCOVER MAN, I HID MY BADGE IN THE HEEL OF MY SHOE! I HATED TO SPOIL IRMA'S PARTY--BUT SINCE MY EARLY AMBITION WAS THE SAME AS IT IS NOW, TONIGHT WAS NO TIME TO BROADCAST IT!
YOUR AMBITION--TO BE THE "TALK OF THE UNDERWORLD"--COULD BE INTERPRETED IN TWO WAYS! BUT IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO EXPLAIN TO IRMA!
11

IN IRMA SAYRES' LIVING ROOM, THE TELEVISION PARTY IS NEARING ITS CLOSE WHEN, SECONDS LATER...
SUPERMAN! TIME YOU WERE SHOWING UP! DO YOU KNOW, AS A YOUNG FELLOW YOU WERE THE INSPIRATION FOR ALL OUR AMBITIONS?
AND YOU'VE BROUGHT AL!
YES--AL'S IN A POSITION, NOW, TO SAY THINGS HE COULDN'T BEFORE!
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AL BECK REALIZED HIS AMBITION TO FIGHT CRIME, BY BECOMING A STATE POLICE DETECTIVE! TONIGHT, HE CLIMAXED WEEKS OF PERILOUS UNDERCOVER WORK WITH DANGEROUS CROOKS, BY CATCHING THEM ALL, RED-HANDED!
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT! SUPERBOY INSPIRED MY CAREER--AND SUPERMAN SAVED IT FROM FAILURE BARELY TEN MINUTES AGO!

SORRY WE HAVE TO RUSH--BUT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILL BE WAITING FOR ALL THE EVIDENCE AL HAS DREDGED UP OUT OF THE UNDERWORLD!
IF YOU SEE CLARK KENT, WILL YOU TELL HIM HE'S MISSED HIS CHANCE TO BRAG ABOUT HIS AMBITIONS AND HIS CAREER IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP WITHIN TWO MINUTES!

NEXT MOMENT...
DID I HEAR MY NAME MENTIONED? I SAW AL WITH SUPERMAN, AND--
NEVER MIND THAT NOW! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TOLD HIS STORY, CLARK--AND YOU'D BETTER TALK FAST!

HMM... THERE'S VERY LITTLE TO TELL, REALLY! I WANTED TO BE A NEWSPAPER REPORTER--AND TODAY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I AM!
BUT THERE MUST BE MORE TO IT! DIDN'T SUPERBOY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR CHOICE OF A CAREER?

SUPERBOY? NOT A THING!
AND IT'S PROBABLY JUST AS WELL! IT WOULD BE A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT SUPERBOY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF US!
SVTV
THE END